



Medical Assistance

(Medicaid – Title XIX)

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Purpose

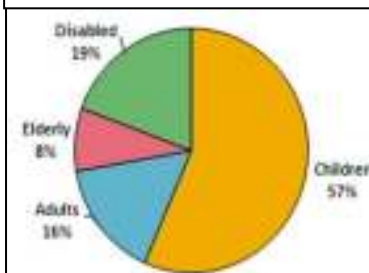
Medical Assistance (Medicaid—Title XIX) provides health care coverage for financially-needy parents with children, children, people with disabilities, elderly people, and pregnant women. The goal is for recipients to live healthy, stable, and self-sufficient lives.

Who

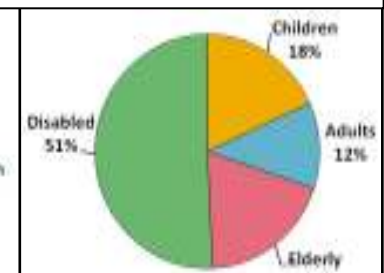
- There were 372,000 people enrolled in regular Medicaid at the end of SFY10, a growth of more than 25,000 people in one year. Of those newly enrolled, 70 percent were children. Continued growth is expected in SFY11.
- An additional 37,000 were enrolled in the Medicaid expansion program for adults who are otherwise not eligible for government help. See a separate summary on IowaCare.

- The average Iowa taxpayer cost per Medicaid recipient is about \$2,268 a year. Costs vary widely. More than half of Medicaid recipients are children but they account for only 18 percent of expenditures.

Enrollment



Expenditures



What

- Iowa Medicaid provides preventive, acute, and long-term care services using the same private and public providers as other insurers in Iowa.
- A special focus is to expand alternatives to institutional long-term care for the aged, disabled, mentally challenged, and for children. Iowa Medicaid spent over \$450 million (federal, state, and county funds) for these “waiver” programs in FY10. There are waiting lists for some programs.
- Iowa Medicaid plays a key role in the state’s child welfare system by funding health care for children in state care. Medicaid also provides medical coverage to children in subsidized adoptive homes, thereby making permanent placement more accessible for children who cannot return to their birth families.
- Medicaid provides health insurance for “aged out” foster youth who are either full-time students or who work full time and who participate in Iowa’s Preparation for Adult Living program.

How are We Doing?

- Medicaid plays a key role in a goal by Iowa policymakers to provide health insurance to all eligible children. See also a one-page summary on the **hawk-i** program.
- Iowa Medicaid focuses on patient education and disease management to control costs and improve health. Strategies include smoking cessation coverage, electronic health records, preventive medical exams, and a Preferred Drug List in which pharmaceutical companies provide \$30 million in rebates in exchange for preferred use of their drugs.
- Medicaid pays over 20 million claims annually. Claims are paid within a week of receipt.
- Medicaid and IowaCare programs are administered by “best in breed” private contractors to efficiently process medical claims, work with providers and members, and aggressively pursue cost recovery. Average wait time for a provider to talk to a call center representative is less than twenty seconds.
- A federal audit shows Iowa’s Medicaid program is among the nation’s most accurate. The Payment Error Rate Measurement shows the overall error rate in Iowa is about half the national average.